

crores from our current revenues for creating property for the State which is already earning, or which will soon earn, much more than the ordinary rate of interest. A portion of this revenue may be well utilised for borrowing more money in order to complete with reasonable celerity the works of development necessary for the State. Such a course is followed in every civilised country as being not only safe but equitable, distributing as it does the burden of permanent and productive improvements over several generations who benefit from them. I revert to these considerations not because Government want to borrow immediately—I think there is no likelihood of any large loan being contracted in the current year or even in the next—but because it is desirable that the public mind should become familiar with the idea that the construction of public works from loan funds is a legitimate means of advancing the permanent interests of the State and that failure to do so, may reasonably bring on Government the accusation that it has not risen to its opportunities.

4.—Revenue Departments.

Land Revenue.

17. The land revenue collections of the year, including receipts from irrigation, amounted to about Rs. 1,04,50,000. The sorting and inspection of records have been receiving attention and a new system of registering and filing correspondence has been introduced in the offices of the Revenue Commissioner and of the Deputy Commissioners of districts. The Village and Taluk Manuals have been completed and are being scrutinised. Revised rules have been recently prescribed for recruitment to the Amildari service. The rules provide among other things for giving equal chances to subordinate officials in the several departments of Government, and for showing special consideration to officials belonging to communities not hitherto sufficiently represented in the public service of the State.

District and Taluk Conferences.

18. With a view to stimulate interest in the work connected with public measures in rural areas, the Deputy

Commissioners and certain heads of departments arranged for conferences in various parts of the State at which questions connected with the Economic Conference, Village Improvements and Co-operative Societies, and the wants of the people generally were considered and discussed. In some cases conferences were held also at the head quarters of *hobli*s. In all 95 conferences were held, as noted below :—

Provincial			2
District			4
Taluk	...		83
Hobli			6

Of these, 56 were convened by the Revenue Department and the Taluk Progress Committees, 20 under the auspices of Co-operative Societies, 16 by the Agricultural Department and 3 more by other agencies. These conferences have an educative value and they help the district officers to ascertain and catalogue local wants and to focus the activities of the people on specific measures of improvement.

19. Revised rates of assessment were introduced in the Belur and Maddagiri Taluks. In the former the settlement operations resulted in a net increase of 7 per cent in the revenue on occupied land while in the case of the Maddagiri Taluk, the increase amounted to 13 per cent. Proposals for revision settlement have been received, or are nearly ready, for Tarikere and the late Gudibanda and Banavar Taluks. Arrangements are being made for expediting the re-survey and settlement work in the State and the additional staff required has been recently sanctioned. *Survey and Settlement.*

20. The committee appointed for the consideration of certain questions relating to inam villages, to which I made reference in my Address last year, was strengthened by the addition of a few members representing the raiyats and the scope of its enquiries was enlarged. The report of the committee has just been received and is under consideration. *Inam.*

21. The gross receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 58,32,195 as against Rs. 58,12,880 in 1914-15, showing an increase of Rs. 19,315. *Excise.*

With regard to the revision of the rules relating to inamdars' claims for excise revenue, draft rules have been published and orders will shortly issue.

Forest Department.

22. The chief event of interest connected with the operations of the Forest Department was the revival of the market for sandalwood which had collapsed in the early days of the war. Altogether, more than 2,000 tons of wood were sold during the year and a sum of Rs. 16,91,452 was realised. Taking all the sources of revenue into consideration, the earnings of the department amounted to nearly Rs. 32 lakhs and the expenditure was a little over Rs. 9 lakhs.

Owing to lack of communications and adequate staff, it has not been hitherto possible to work the interior forests of the *malnad* and of the Mysore District to their full capacity. The heavy district charges of Mysore and Shimoga have therefore been sub-divided and eleven new ranges have been formed in these and the Kadur District, the forest sub-divisions which formerly existed being abolished.

*23. Among other events connected with the Department may be mentioned, the deputation of an officer to America to make a special study of forest subjects, the revival of the appointment of a full time Forest Settlement Officer, the compilation of a commercial guide to the forest products of Mysore and the preparation of a provincial map showing the State Forests notified up to the end of the official year 1914-15.

5.—Protection.

Judicial Department.

24. There were 27 civil courts (excluding village munsiffs' courts) and 130 criminal courts working during the year. As stated in my Address last year, the Munsiff's Court at Narasimharajapura has been revived, and sanction has been accorded to the continuance of the Second Munsiff's Court at Tumkur up to May 1918.

Police Department.

25. The strength of the permanent Police force on the 30th June 1916 was 870 officers and 5,206 constables. The statistics of crime show that 7,970 cognizable cases were reported during the year as against 6,826 in the year 1914-15. But the increase occurred mostly under public